



LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

NO. 227

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 COVER: Cartoon by Nuev, an editor of *Patria*,
 Cuba's weekly humor magazine. Please credit: LNS

BREAK THE MEDIA BLACK-OUT ON THE VENCEREMOS BRIGADE:

In the current and previous LNS packets, and in past and future packets, we have tried to bring detailed coverage about the Venceremos Brigade -- the Americans breaking the blockade and travel ban to help with Cuba's 10 million ton sugar harvest. This Marchato war against imperialism, supported by this contingent of North Americans, is of great significance in the international revolution. The bourgeois media have virtually blacked out the story. Whereas the hijackings to Cuba get page one coverage day after day throughout 1969, news of the Brigade's very existence has been kept from the American people. We have been disappointed to find that the Brigade coverage sent out in LNS has not been re-published in many underground papers. We urge you to consider several of the brigade articles, photos and cartoons to publication in your next issue. This is an example of how the underground press can work to overcome the political censorship of the straight press and to get the word out to the people. Patria o muerte, venceremos. Los diez millones van.

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IF YOUR PACKET IS DEFECTIVE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL MAKE AMENDS. IF IT'S URGENT, WE'LL RUSH

VENCEREMOS BRIGADE MEETS CUTTING GOAL

By Dick and Gene Cluster

LIBERATION News Service

CAMPAMENTO BRIGADA VENCEREMOS, Cuba (LNS)

The night of Jan. 8 was the coldest and windiest so far. Each of the 216 North Americans and 60 Cubans in the Venceremos Brigade was freezing his or her ass off in the unheated tents in the grips of a 'tropical' cold front.

But when the bugle went off at 5:30 -- a half hour late -- everyone got up like he had a reason to, and by six o'clock, the trucks were warming up to take us to the fields.

The new tote board in the control post said "15,000 arrobas" (1 arroba equals 25 pounds, left to cut).

By sometime in the morning of Friday, Jan. 9, we were a millionaire brigade -- we had cut one million arrobas, or 25 million pounds of cane, in five weeks of cutting. We had reached our goal one day ahead of time, despite rain, cold, half-hour truck rides to the field and a kind of cane we came to call "steel spaghetti."

Members of the Venceremos Brigade began talking about becoming a millionaire brigade about the time we had a visit from the "Guerrillas of Bolivia," a group of tobacco industry workers who had just become the first millionaire brigade in Havana Province and were aiming for five million by the end of the harvest in July.

We were seven times the size of the Cuban brigade, but we had only six weeks to spend at it and no experience. More important, one million arrobas for the Cuban people is one million arrobas for the Cuban people, no matter how you cut it.

At the end of the third week, with more than 500,000 arrobas under our belts, a meeting of the whole brigade made it official -- a million or bust. Our contribution to the 10 million ton harvest was going to be real, not merely symbolic.

The following Wednesday New Year's eve to you -- we held a special meeting to celebrate the triumph of the revolution, which occurred on New Year's eve 11 years ago. The traditional New Year's festivities in Cuba have been postponed until after the harvest this year. In the spirit

of this dedication to the work of the revolution, the camp management announced that, in its opinion, we could make the million a week early, by Jan. 10. They challenged us to do it; we accepted.

"I've never been so excited on New Year's Eve," one girl said, "and there isn't even anything to drink."

Because the purpose of our effort is to demonstrate international solidarity with the Cuban revolution, the 10 Vietnamese fighters and workers who are also participating in the harvest announced their intention to come and cut with us sometime during our million week.

At the beginning of that week -- the fifth one -- we were right on schedule, with 200,000 arrobas left to cut, but it wasn't looking like a shoo-in. Yields were going down, and all seven of our brigades were ploughing through a field of thin, light-weight resilient cane which a woman from New York nick-named "steel spaghetti." Cold weather ("this is the coat I wear for snow in Boston") was aggravating colds, flu and assorted camp illnesses. The next fields to be cut were too far to walk, 20 to 30 minutes away by truck with only four trucks for seven brigades. And Wednesday, it rained all morning, so nobody could cut. We had 125,000 to go.

But suddenly we realized what the Cuban people had known for years:

All we needed was the will and determination to work. The management proposed a state of combat alert, which meant an early start that afternoon and a new schedule: 6-11 a.m. and 2-6 p.m., which gave us two extra hours a day until we reached a million.

Everyone whispered, "Ugh, getting up at 5 a.m., are they still going to show movies until 11? How are we going to see to cut at that hour?" But we said we would cut a million. It drizzled off and on all afternoon, and the next day it was windier and colder, especially on the trucks. We worked in about three layers of clothes apiece. By Friday morning, Jan. 9, we had only 15,000 to go. The new cane was light, but straight and thick and easy to cut. Many comrades with fevers and injuries worked one day, half a day, as much as they could. One group of sturdy brigade members cut 11,000 arrobas that first afternoon -- an incredible feat. Friday

was easy. The Vietnamese came and cut 3,000 of the last 15,000 themselves. When the P.A. system announced a special brigade meeting for 8 p.m., we all knew why -- we had made the million a day early.

One million, thirty-one thousand arrobas had been hauled to the mill.

Camp director Javier Ardizones made the official announcement, his normal poker face wreathed in smiles, and commented on its importance;

"There is no task a revolutionary can't fulfill. We must have trust in man's will and man's effort. This news will be heard around the world. One group will receive it with great joy; another with deep concern."

Brigade members were on their feet, chanting "Los diez millones van" -- (We'll make the ten million).

We celebrated our own great joy with Cuban cocktails -- the first ever seen in the camp. The official celebration took place on Monday, Jan. 12, because Saturday was the national baseball finals, and even the Venceremos Brigade can't preempt TV time from the World Series.

On Monday, the shaggy "Guerrillas of Bolivia" (our cane-cutting friends from the tobacco industry) and a very efficient national TV crew descended on the camp for a live broadcast. Our millionaire brigade banner was presented to elected Brigade representative Joseph Kelvin, a black community organizer from Oakland, by Jaime Crombet, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists. Capt. Nguyen Van Dao of the National Liberation Front also presented an NLF flag.

Then fireworks, more rum (on which the members of both millionaire brigades got thoroughly borracho) and a party and dancing until 1 a.m.

Meanwhile, we will continue to work for another week, before beginning our two-week tour of Cuba. We've made a larger contribution to the harvest than anyone expected. But there are eight and a half million arrobas of sugar left to go. That's about another 5.5 billion arrobas of cane. Our effort must be made another 5,000 times -- and it will be LOS DIEZ MILLONES VAN

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FROM THE VENCEREMOS BRIGADE

THE CANE-CUTTERS SPEAK

By Genc and Dick Cluster

LIBERATION News Service

CAMPAMENTA BRIGADA VENCEREMOS, Cuba (LNS) --

"It is cold in the morning and is wet -- not even a superman could do this without..."

--Fidel Castro, on cutting cane, to the Venceremos Brigade

* * *

"You wouldn't catch me cutting sugar cane in the States, and in any job I had there, I'd work hard the first couple of days, then skulk around trying to find ways to get out of work, to take 20 minute coffee breaks. Here, I'm constantly trying to work harder, calling meetings with other people to talk about how we can work better."

--Brigade member

* * *

The Venceremos Brigade is no tourist trip to Cuba. For the last two weeks the people will tour, but the bulk of the trip is about work.

The brigade consists of 216 North Americans and about 70 Cubans who cut cane at the Ruben Martinez Villena sugar mill, which used to be the property of Hershey Chocolates. We cut and pile cane seven hours a day, beginning at 7 a.m., five and a half days a week. The rest of the time, we learn about Cuba through trips, films and talks, through visits from such Cubans as the first volunteer brigade in Havana Province to cut a million arrobas (one arroba equals 25 pounds), the ten Vietnamese fighters and workers here to take part in the harvest, Fidel himself.

In Cuba's socialist economy work means something different from what it means in the U.S.

* * *

"In the States, I only worked when I got hard up for bread, and, like, the first week here, it was really getting to be a drag, but, you know, as I adjusted myself to working day in and day out, it's real cool now. The day passes real quick. In the U.S., you're a surplus product, you know, what's called profit and what goes to taxes and new

more...

machines is appropriated by the six, seven, eight million Cuban people in the battle against under development. Not only that but I'm getting more necessary products, like food and clothing and like that than I would in the States.

"Here you feel like you're working for everyone. Mercedes, a Cuban looked up one day in the field and noted the smoke coming out of the mill smokestack. She said, Oh look, our sugar mill has started working. Can you imagine that in the States? Our sugar mill?

One Brigade member called this learning the revolution from the inside out.

"I imagine tourist trips are more fun in a lot of ways. I'm looking forward to the last two weeks, but to understand the people you have to work with them. And we're coming to understand the basic day-to-day struggles Cubans have. After all, this harvest is going to last until the end of July. It's the biggest thing in Cuba from when it started until then. I'm getting a much better understanding of what it means to be a revolutionary, not necessarily a member of the Party, just a Cuban under socialism."

Another thing to say is what fucking hard work cutting cane is. Every day the waking up noises, usually songs in Spanish, come across the loudspeaker at a quarter of six, and every day we leave for the fields by a quarter to seven or seven, and walk some half a mile or a mile to the field.

And it's freezing cold. Well, it's not freezing cold, but it's cold enough to want a jacket, and your hands are cold and it's wet and foggy, and everything is very slow for the first hour. And your hands hurt when you hit the cane because it's so cold, and by the time it's 11 and you quit, you're sweating and your sweat is running down around the protective eyeglasses that everyone wears. (They're new just in the last couple of years before that they lost a couple of eyes in each harvest.)

Then back to the field at three after you haven't had time to wash your clothes and go to

lunch and get a blister bandage and talk to all the people you wanted to talk to and sleep. The first hour in the afternoon is even hotter than the last hour in the morning. It's hard to talk when you're cutting, though we do it sometimes, but it slows you down, you really have to just cut.

Next to the work, the contact with "Cubans under socialism" is the most important experience Brigade members have had.

"The main thing that sticks in my mind is the humane feeling, the humane spirit that seems to be protruding, you might say, from each Cuban -- and especially the ones that have more authority. The closer they are toward the Party, especially the central committee, the more human they are, the more responsive, the more they are relating, right on up to Fidel."

The stories and histories of these Cubans cutting with us are the history of the revolution.

"There's one guy on our cutting brigade. I thought, he's only 25, I won't bother to ask him if he fought in the revolution, but he was with Che in the mountains at 15."

"Rodolfo, the man who brings the snack in the field, told me about the night of the revolution when he heard planes and said, 'There's Batista going for good,' and he was right. He told me it wasn't like in 1933 when people were furious and tore everything apart. This time, there was little destruction; people thought about what they were going to do with stuff, like mansions were later turned into scholarship student housing. Except for gambling places, slot machines and parking meters--and when he said that he couldn't think of the word for parking meters, it's become such an alien concept to him: he said, 'a clock that you put money in to park a car,' as if it were an outrageous thing I could never have heard of."

"Cubans work eight hours a day, seven days a week, for as many as ten months in the harvest. It's nothing strange for a Cuban to do it, though it would be impossible for us. We can't really

understand, as a Cuban would, the harvest and what it really means to Cuba. We don't remember when cane-cutters got 40¢ a day."

One Cuban here is Reinaldo Castro, the Cuban national working hero. He's been a cane-cutter all his life. After the revolution, he stopped being just a cane-cutter, and because he could cut 2500 arrobas a day, he's now a national working hero. He is celebrated for what he does, and he doesn't have to make speeches. He comes out and cuts with us every day.

It's really exemplary of a whole different attitude towards work here, in which all work is important. The work of the cooks in the kitchen and the people in the camp is seen as just as important as the work of the cutters. It's really the change in people's work role in a revolution--it's that just as much as it's the fact that salaries are evened out and everybody can be trained for anything

It's not only the whole mobility thing about how anybody can be trained for anything, but that classes of work, in all their usual senses, just don't exist anymore.

* * *

Out of actually working in the revolution, Americans can obtain a much more real understanding about what used to be just rhetoric.

"This is really turning into some kind of understanding of how groups can work together and achieve something. I didn't expect to find this. It might just be a function of the camp experience but I think it's more than that. We're always talking about what communism means."

"I've always talked about working for a whole people, always argued that socialism can work. But in the back of my head, I wondered if I was just naive. But now, I've seen it. I know it works. I've felt it. And I'm not worrying about money, about having to borrow three cents to get to work. I understand what a society that is just beginning to do away with money is, rather than just saying it over in my mind.

* * *

"A Cuban was talking about the fact that in 15 years or so, the Cubans will be well enough off to only work maybe three of four hours a day. He

said there's going to be plenty of everything, but people are still going to work eight hours because we still have to work to help the rest of the Third World and Latin America. His whole feeling that it's not just Cuba but the oppressed peoples of the world is a fantastic thing and it just keeps coming up whatever the occasion."

* * *

"My head here is in an incredibly better place. It's a surprise to most people. You can't transfer this to the States, of course, but just seeing that there can be an atmosphere in which your head is together and you can work well must affect what you can do when you get back."

* * *

"I remember most of all the first night and the thoughts that were running through my mind. I remember looking over my shoulder and commenting that I expected some Boston police cars to pull up any minute. It was difficult to realize that we are the good guys here."

* * *

"One of the things that bothers me about the Americans is this--to some extent everything is still a game. When we see movies about Vietnam, everyone cheers when the American planes go down. It's not only the matter of not showing concern for the GIs--that's not so much the point; I mean, American GIs are going to have to die in a lot of places. It's this whole thing of using the Vietnamese like a baseball game, to cheer when they score a hit against a plane. In any case, the Cuban revolution here affirms everyone's conviction in the possibility and desirability of a socialist revolution."

* * *

Internationalism includes us

"We're not just here as observers, we're here as world revolutionaries doing our part in the battle of the Cuban harvest. And the Cubans think of us in that role. When we were celebrating the first million tons, I said to a Cuban woman on the maintenance staff that in July, when the tenth million is reached, I would be in the U.S., and she said, 'No, no, you'll be here in Cuba.'"

You think about not only what Cuba is now, but what imperialism was in Cuba and is everywhere else.



THE WAR IN LAOS

By Hugo Hill

LIBERATION News Service

VIENTIANE, Laos (LNS) -- The U.S. government is spending \$300 million a year to crush the Lao revolution and is having even less success than in neighboring Vietnam.

After seven years of fitful fighting, the Pathet Lao revolutionaries control about three-fourths of the country and have cut all the roads in the government-controlled quarter. The Royal Lao Government, a faithful servant of the U.S., can lay claim only to the capital city of Vientiane and about half a dozen other towns and their environs. The rest of the country is either uninhabited or already liberated.

This basic situation remains unaltered despite the successful U.S. offensive in the Plain of Jars last summer.

The Plain of Jars

In June of 1969 the Pathet Lao pulled a surprise by launching an offensive during the rainy season, when their logistics are impaired. Pushing out from their Plain of Jars base, the revolutionary forces captured Muong Soui, a government-run town on the western edge of the Plain, cut the road between Vientiane and Luang Prabang, and threatened the CIA's military headquarters at Long Cheng.

The U.S. responded with a massive, secrecy-shrouded counter-offensive. For the first time in the Laos war, the pretext of interdicting the "Ho Chi Minh trail" was discarded and U.S. Phantom jets ran a saturation bombing campaign against all communities in the Plain of Jars.

But now the rainy season is over, and the Pathet Lao's logistics are simplified. Government officials here are worried that their revolutionary opponents will soon try to make good their losses. And everyone realizes that if the Pathet Lao call for a showdown in the Plain of Jars, the reactionaries will be powerless to stop them.

American Bombing

The American answer to the dilemma of Laos is -- unimaginatively enough -- more of the same. Since last summer's offensive, bombing has contin-

ued at the almost incredible level of 20,000 sorties per month. Little-known liberated Laos is now subject to the same intensity of bombing as was North Vietnam two years ago.

Refugees report living in caves and tunnels and venturing out to work their fields only at night. Markets in the liberated towns open in the pre-dawn hours and close at sunrise, so as not to provide easy targets. Life in the countryside has become so difficult that refugees may now constitute one-fourth of the population.

American bombing is not limited to the Plain of Jars but covers most of liberated Laos. Other preferred targets include Sam Neua, the Pathet Lao capital, and Phong Saly. Both those provinces were granted to the Pathet Lao under the Geneva Agreements.

Secret Army

Until recently, the U.S. was caught in a bad bind here. The Pathet Lao, as part of the Southeast Asian revolutionary movement, had to be crushed. But intensive bombing, necessary as it was, could not do the job. Only infantry can occupy territory.

But given home-front resistance to the invasion of Vietnam, it has not been feasible to send the Marines to Laos; and Laos' own "Royal Army" is the only one in Asia that makes the Saigon troops look good by comparison. It could not last a day in the field against the Pathet Lao.

So the CIA fell back on the old imperialist principle of divide-and-rule and began courting the favor of the Meos, a large mountain tribe with deep historical resentment against the lowland Lao. Promising the Meos future autonomy (the same approach used earlier with the Montagnards in Vietnam), the CIA organized 15,000 Meo men into a full-time army and enlisted their families in a support and logistics system.

This army -- under the leadership of the now-notorious General Vang Pao -- is a clandestine, unofficial body. It is trained, equipped and financed by the CIA and is completely independent of the Royal Lao Government.

That may be irregular diplomatic practice, but it paid off last summer when Vang Pao's troops occupied the Plain of Jars, something the Royal Army had been unable to do in six years.

The secret army is probably tough, but it is only one of the three prongs used by the American strategists. The others are U.S. bombs and Thai mercenaries. (Unofficial estimates place the number of Thai artillerymen here at 5,000). In this orchestrated effort, the Meo are just cannon-fodder -- Asian "boys" doing what American "boys" now refuse to do -- die for the colonial past. But in Laos, as elsewhere in the Third World, the past is losing.

Why Laos?

If a good case could never be made for the crucialness of Vietnam to our imperial interests, even less can such a case be made for Laos, which doesn't even have the excuse of possessing handsome ports, for it is, as the establishment press says, just a tiny "land-locked kingdom."

Laos has never produced anything beyond the meager subsistence of its people; and the only evidence of any industrially exploitable natural resource is one paltry tin mine. Nor would Laos' two and a half million non-acquisitive inhabitants be much of a market for our own exports. Laos is simply not a tempting colonial plum.

The U.S. is fighting here, most likely, for strategic reasons. Laos is a buffer between revolutionary Vietnam and our valuable colony of Thailand. A victory in Laos would give Asian communism an unbroken land mass from Mongolia to the Mekong. Visions of dominos falling all the way to Australia command the CIA to stop the Pathet Lao now.

But the revolutionaries have proved, both in Vietnam and here, that the spirit of the people is greater than the power of bombs. If the U.S. persists, this country will face the most horrible destruction in its history, but in the end Laos must win.

-30-

Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.

THREE NICARAGUAN GUERRILLAS HOLD OFF NATIONAL

GUARD; DIE SINGING THE INTERNATIONALE
MANAGUA, Nicaragua (LNS) -- Three Nicaraguan guerrillas died recently at the end of a 1½ hour gunfight with troops of the Nicaraguan National Guard at Managua's East Cemetery.

The guerrillas, identified as members of the Sandinist Liberation Movement, sang the Internationale -- the worldwide anthem of communists -- as they were cornered by a hefty detachment of Nicaraguan National Guardsmen. Then they were killed.

The guardsmen lost a sergeant and had one private injured. A woman and a boy in the neighborhood were also wounded in the clash, according to a report published in the Washington Post (Jan. 17).

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1970 SEMINAR ON YOUTH AND WORLD CRISIS

NEW YORK (LNS) -- The Seminar on Youth and World Crisis is a project sponsored jointly by several denominational churches in the United States. It is designed as a three month experience for radical people to talk with high school students in several communities in the U.S. There will be a total of 15 people divided into teams of five. Each team will spend March 3 to May 3 in two of the following six communities: Birmingham, Ala., Memphis, Tenn., Cincinnati, Ohio, Peoria, Ill., Hinsdale, Ill., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Participants must be between the ages of 17 and 19. Room and board expenses will be paid and some scholarships are available for travel and personal expenses.

Applications can be obtained by writing to: Betsy Hess, Evangeline House, Room 308, 123 East 13th St., New York, NY 10011. (Telephone: 212-CH 2-2400, ext. 308). Deadline for return of applications is Feb. 10.

-30-

Money doesn't talk, it swears.

-- Bob Dylan

"WOMEN'S WORK" AT GENERAL ELECTRIC

by Susy Orchard

OLD MOLE/ LIBERATION News Service

Ashland, Mass (LNS) -- "It's not even a question of priorities. There are men's jobs and women's jobs. And for the more desirable jobs, men have absolute rights."

This is how one male striker at General Electric described the company's treatment of women workers. Demands for better treatment of women are a crucial focus of the nationwide, multi-union GE strike although they have received little publicity from the press. These demands are central to the struggle at plants like the GE Ashland plant where about 80% of the workers are women.

Women at the Ashland plant are hired for two main kinds of jobs. One is working on individual machines and the other is assembly-line work. Both of these are the lowest paying jobs at the plant, even though they are far more difficult than many of the higher paying jobs.

It takes approximately six months to learn to run an automatic machine, a job for which women are almost never hired (there is at the moment one token woman sweeper at Ashland) is a far higher paying job, as well as far less difficult. A major demand of the strike is that women who work on machines are paid at least as much as sweepers.

One of the major problems in the negotiations at the Ashland plant is that GE never directly states that women cannot work at certain jobs, but keeps them out of better jobs by other methods. One woman who applied for a higher paying job, which was given to a man, was told by the company that she could have had the job except that her application had been lost.

One of the better paying jobs at the plant is that of group leader. Though some of the daytime group leaders are women, they get paid at a far lower rate than male group leaders. Once again, GE gets around this by claiming that the jobs are different, ergo women are not discriminated against. GE also hires a number of women

as group leaders to prove they don't discriminate and then just happened to eliminate their jobs entirely.

A GE woman's life is bad the day she is hired. When a man is hired the company determines his qualifications, and then assigns him a job. When a woman is hired, the determination of her job is arbitrary. When a group of women gets hired, they are asked for a show of hands, which is all the company finds out before deciding where to put them.

Because the women are assigned to jobs so arbitrarily, the company never has to bother explaining to them that it was decided they were unqualified for the better paying jobs. Yet a woman who is "not qualified" to be a sweeper is qualified to run a complex, high-paced and exacting machine.

"No man [in this plant] works as hard as a woman," pointed out one woman striker. "The men get scared as hell when they look at machines, yet the women are still getting less than the sweepers."

To obscure the exploitation of women even further, GE also pays women on different machines different rates. Once again, GE uses this policy to buttress the fiction that the jobs they do account for women's low wages and not the company's pervasive discrimination against women. All the women at Ashland have signed a petition demanding that women get paid the same rate no matter what machine they operate.

When negotiations were just starting, the women went through the list of all their grievances and made up a set of demands which were decided on by men and women together. Not only have these demands consistently been denied by the company, but the company has even refused to consider the women's situation a valid subject for negotiations.

There are 1100 women who work at Ashland. Of these, 1045 women are paid less than the lowest paying man's job, that of sweeper. Only 48 women are paid at the rates one and two steps above the sweepers, three women are four steps up, and beyond that one woman is five steps and one woman is nine steps past the sweeper's rate. Meanwhile, men are spread out all over the 12-rate payscale of which 95% of the women workers don't even see the bottom rung.

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OGLESBY TESTIFIES AT CHICAGO TRIAL

LIBERATION News Service

CHICAGO (LNS) -- Carl Oglesby was in Grant Park on Wednesday during the Democratic National Convention. He heard his name being called over the P A system by Dave Dellinger; Dellinger wanted him to speak to the crowd to help keep it cool.

Oglesby, a long time movement activist, writer and teacher did get up and speak. He said that Chicago was not definitive, that is was more important to organize people in their own communities around an understanding of their own lives. But he said that we have to fight too, when we are attacked, the way people are fighting in Saigon, Watts, Bolivia, Peru and South Africa. "We can't fight with creampuffs," he told the demonstrators.

Those words and many others that he said that day were thrown back at Oglesby as he sat in the witness stand at the trial of the Conspiracy 8.

"Did you not say....?" asked the U.S. attorney.

"That's a complicated political question," answered Oglesby.

"The witness is instructed to answer yes or no. If he does not know he may say so," says Judge Julius Hoffman, leaning over his lectern and glowering at Oglesby.

"Your honor, it's not a question of not knowing, it's..."

"Tell the witness to answer yes or no, your honor," demanded the Government.

Oglesby, one of the few witnesses so far in the Conspiracy trial to publicly acknowledge the ^{the political nature} trial as well as its surface absurdity ("Everyone knows this is silly," he said to Judge Hoffman at one point), turned to the jury and asked, "Why is it impossible to explain anything to this court in any way but 'yea' or 'nay'?"

It became clear that the prosecution was intending to pull things out of Oglesby's speech out of context, to make it sound like a fiery clarion call to bloody violence in the streets.

The defense asked to place the entire transcript of Oglesby's speech into evidence for the jury to hear it in context.

The Government objected, and the speech was

not admitted, even though earlier in the trial the judge had admitted a tape recording of parts of the same speech that had been recorded by a police undercover agent.

"Mr. Oglesby, did you hear people chanting 'What do you want? Revolution! When do you want it? Now!?'?" asked the prosecutor.

"I've heard it in other cities at other times, yes..."

"Mr. Oglesby, did you have a telephone conversation with Defendant (Rennie) Davis...?" and the prosecutor went on to relate a telephone conversation.

Defense Attorney Len Weinglass got up and pointed out that the only way the government might have known about the content of that call was through illegal wiretapping. The government lawyers reacted with righteous indignation and demanded an apology.

"It's happened before, you know," Weinglass reminded the Court. Very early in the trial it became clear that much of the Government's case would rest on illegal wiretaps. Although the Government admitted having made the taps and their illegality as well, a technicality about permitting them in cases of "national security" got them off the hook and Judge Hoffman ruled wiretapping evidence to be permissible.

The Government continued to press Oglesby for yes-or-no answers about the political content of speeches which were made during Convention week.

"There are many ideas involved here, your honor, which I would gladly comment on if it were possible to do so in this court," Oglesby indicated at one point.

"The witness' words may go out and the jury is instructed to disregard them," said Hoffman as he has said several hundred times already.

Oglesby's comments in his speech about not fighting with creampuffs and about struggles throughout the world were continued in the part of his speech whose transcript was ruled inadmissible by the judge. Nevertheless, the Government was permitted to question Oglesby about that part.

"What did you mean when you said 'We can't fight with creampuffs?'" asked U.S. attorney Thomas Foran.

"I meant we shouldn't try to talk to administrators, to those in power, but to the people. We should try to build up independant political power by organizing the community."

Oglesby's speech contained an extended metaphor which repeatedly used the word "kick." Foran asked him about that part of the speech -- also part of the prohibited transcript -- in a series of questions that made it seem as though Oglesby had been talking about literally "kicking the shit out of Chicago," or something along those lines.

"In fact," explained Oglesby, "That was all part of a metaphor I used in the speech, comparing Chicago and the movement and the demonstrations to a delivery room in which a baby -- a new America -- is kicking its way into the future."

During the Government's cross-examination, the prosecutor seized on one of the more colorful lines from Oglesby's speech and read it despite the fact that the transcript had been ruled out. Oglesby tried to explain what he meant by it, but the Judge denied the jury the explanation.

The defense tried to get the explanation out again during its redirect examination of the witness.

"You testified that you said in your speech, 'We sc red them, the dead ones, the carrion-eaters, the profit-takers.' Would you explain what you meant by that?" asked Weinglass.

"Objection!" shouted the Government.

"Sustained," said the Judge.

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PEOPLE'S ALMANAC FOR FEBRUARY

Feb. 1

1943: German 6th Army surrenders at Stalingrad; turning point of war in Russia.

1960: Four students start sit-in movement in Greensboro, N.C. Movement spreads to 15 cities in 10 days

1965: Martin Luther King and more than 2,600 other blacks arrested in Selma, Ala. during three-day demonstrations against vote-registration rules.

Feb. 2

1951: Four young black men executed in mass frame-up for "rape" in Martinsville, Va.

1962: Four black mothers arrested for sitting in at a Chicago elementary school to protest segregation and second-rate facilities.

Feb. 3

1821: Birthday of Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman physician in the U.S. She received her medical degree in 1849 at Geneva College, later Syracuse University.

1831: Revolutionary outbreaks in Modena, Parma and Papal States, influenced by French revolution of July 1830.

Feb. 4

1869: Birthday of William D. (Big Bill) Haywood, leader of Western Federation of Miners, early advocate of industrial unionism, founder and leader of the Industrial Workers of the World, and socialist.

1899: Filipinos demand independence from U.S. This "independence" was granted July 4, 1946.

1951: Three more black men executed in Martinsville, Va., "rape" case.

Feb. 6

1919: Seattle General Strike.

Feb. 7

1962: U.S. military personnel in Vietnam reaches 4,000.

Feb. 8

1912: IWW Free Speech Fight, San Diego.

Feb. 9

1932: Harry Simms, member of the Young Communist League and youth organizer for the

National Miners Union, shot and killed by company thugs at Barboursville, Ky

1968: Orangeville, S.C. Massacre

Pigs killed five students in demonstration

Feb. 10

1968: A commission reports that national guardsmen and police used "excessive and unjustified" force in putting down riots in Newark the previous summer

Feb. 11

1922: Nine-power Treaty of Washington maintains "open door" -- for imperialism -- in China.

1945: Yalta Agreement signed by FDR, Churchill and Stalin

Feb. 12

1869: Birthday of Abraham Lincoln

1947: Sixty men burn draft cards in New York.

Feb. 14

1817: Birthday of Frederick Douglass, black abolitionist, son of a slave mother.

1956: Khruschev denounces policies of Stalin at 20th Soviet Communist Party Conference.

1968: Ft. Jackson GIs revolt

Feb. 15

1820: Birthday of Susan B. Anthony, women's suffrage organizer

1926: Beginning of 17-week general strike of 12,000 New York Jewish furriers, forming coalition with Greek and black workers. They became the first union to win a five-day, 40-hour week.

1936: Popular Front wins majority in Spanish elections

1959: Fidel Castro becomes Premier of Cuba.

Feb. 17

1936: Fourteen thousand Goodyear rubber workers began a sit-down strike in Akron, Ohio.

1966: Newark/SDS demonstration at Englehard Stockholders meeting

Feb. 18

1964: Secretary McNamara testifies that the bulk of U.S. forces in Vietnam can be

expected to leave by 1965.

1871: Paris Commune established as an attempt of the French working class to create a communist France

1969: The House Un-American Activities Committee changes its name to the Internal Security Committee, which prompts one Representative to recall the Li'l Abner comic strip in which the name of the "Skunk Works" was changed to "Ozark Perfume Factory."

Feb. 19

1919: First Pan-African Congress, organized by W.E.B. Dubois, opens in Paris

1928: IWW scores a victory in the Colorado mining strike.

Feb. 20

1895: Death of Frederick Douglass ("If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.")

Feb. 21

1965: Malcolm X assassinated.

1968: Delta Airlines jet hijacked to Cuba.

Feb. 22

1732: Birthday of George Washington, prominent Virginia slaveholder.

1892: U.S. Populist Party organized in St. Louis

1964: Ghana becomes a one-party Socialist State.

Feb. 23

1787: Birthday of Emma Willard, founder of Troy Female Seminary, first successful attempt to broaden girls' education and teach them mathematics, history, geography and science

1868: Birthday of W.E.B. Dubois, black Marxist.

1960: Riot in Chattanooga, Tenn. at sit-in demonstration.

Feb. 25

1946: Black community of Columbia, Tenn. prevented lynching of a black war veteran and his mother. Black community was surrounded and its business section was destroyed and looted. Resulting charges against black citizens of

attempt to murder, resulted in eventual acquittal.

1960: First sit-in in deep South takes place at a Montgomery, Ala. courthouse.

1964: Muhammad Ali knocks out Sonny Liston in the 7th round in Miami Beach and takes the heavyweight boxing crown, which was ripped off three years later by the New York State Athletic Commission immediately after a Federal Grand Jury indicted Ali for refusing induction into the Army.

Feb. 27

1861: Warsaw Massacre -- Russian troops fire on crowd demonstrating against Russian rule.

1900: British Labour Party founded.

1933: Nazis engineer Reichstag fire, blame Communists, and suspend civil liberties and freedom of the press.

1960: Police arrest 100 students in Nashville, Tenn. sit-in.

1968: House of Commons sharply restricts colored immigration to Britain.

Feb. 28

1913: IWW Textile workers strike in Paterson, N.J.

1942: Huey P. Newton's birthday.

FREE HUEY!

-30-

ISRAEL BANS LEFT JOURNAL

By Robert Lanston / Militant

TEL AVIV (LNS) -- Israel's military censors have banned the December issue of Matzpen, the journal of the anti-Zionist Israeli Socialist Organization. Although individual articles in the Hebrew-language edition of the magazine have previously been censored, this is the first time it has been completely suppressed.

The Israeli Socialist Organization is a legal Marxist-Leninist political party, founded in the early 1960's. Its politics are revolutionary, pushing for a Socialist reshuffling of the economy and a dismantling of the Zionist, racist features of the Israeli state. With a young membership, principally Jewish, the ISO finds itself increas-

ingly sympathetic to the idea of Jews struggling alongside Arabs against the present state of Israel.

Last summer, the ISO tried to begin publishing an Arabic edition of Matzpen; the first issue was 80-percent censored and the second one was completely forbidden, although all the articles had previously been published in the Hebrew-language editions of the magazine.

This action by Golda Meir's new government is only a part of an intensified pattern of harassment of political dissidents. There have been numerous arrests of Matzpen salesmen in recent weeks. Jabra Nicola, one of the few Arab ISO militants who until recently was not under house arrest or area restriction, has now been ordered by the military authorities not to leave Haifa without permission.

The intensified repression of political dissent has hit not only the ISO. Militants of the largely Arab-based Rakah, one of the two Israeli Communist parties, and people regarded as associated with the El Ard group of nationalist Arab intellectuals, have also been arrested in larger numbers during the past month than previously.

-30-

PRAGUE AUTHORITIES BUST 10 "TROTSKYITE" STUDENTS, CALLS THEM BEFUDLED WITH IDEAS OF MAO AND DUTSCHKE

PRAGUE (LNS) -- The arrest of 10 "Trotskyite" students in the Czechoslovak capital city was disclosed by Radio Prague Jan. 16. The 10 students -- nine Czechoslovaks and a West German woman -- claimed membership in a revolutionary socialist party that urged resistance to authorities and to Soviet influence.

A Radio Prague commentator said the "Trotskyite" group was befuddled with the ideas of Trotsky, Mao Tse-tung, and West German student leader Rudi Dutschke, according to a report published in the Washington Post.

-30-

HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE

From: THE STUDENT ADVOCATE -- THE STUDENT ADVOCATE, a newsmagazine published by two students at Antioch College in Columbia, Md., is looking for writers around the country to do various articles on "education today." The trends and experimental projects being undertaken by various colleges and individuals towards "a relevant education" We would like to be added to everyone's mailing list. Write to THE STUDENT ADVOCATE, Antioch-at-Columbia, P.O. Box 877, Columbia, Md. 21043. Thanks

* * *

From: LEFT FACE, P O Box 1595, Anniston, Ala 36201-- Friends,

Please encourage all subscribers to inaugurate a policy of free subscriptions to GIs-WACs in the U.S. and abroad. Though few newspapers at present have such a policy, those that do can readily attest to the response of GIs-WACs. LEFT FACE will spread the word to all other GI anti-war papers, as well as to our own readers, for those that do offer free subs (to those papers already following this policy: please drop us a note and we'll tell out sister GI papers) Help us destroy the monster! Please ask subscribers to exchange with us. From the staff, Sgt. Lewis A Delano.

* * *

From: AMPO, Ishii Building, 6-44 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan -- [letter dated Jan 3]

This is a copy of our first issue of AMPO, which was published in November. Our second issue will be out in a few days. We have found very few subscribers and are desperately in need of publicity. Could you help us find readers? [Note from LNS: We suggest that papers write for a sample copy of AMPO, which is an English-language paper documenting the struggle of the Japanese against the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.]

* * *

From: SEASIDE GI COFFEE HOUSE, c/o Bruce Neuburger, P.O. Box 359, Seaside, CA 93955 --

I am writing to inform you that a GI coffee house is opening in Seaside, Calif., for Service-men at Fort Ord.

Could you put out a note with your packet to this effect? We have no name at this time and do not want any public announcement until we are in operation. We would appreciate receiving literature from people who receive your packets. Thanks, Staff of soon-to-be Seaside Coffee House

* * *

From: PATRIOT PARTY, Yorkville Branch, 1742 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. phone 212-831 4503--

WANTED. Revolutionary carpenters, plumbers, electricians, house painters, plasterers, bricklayers, oil burner repairers. Come to Yorkville, N.Y., Help the People of Yorkville live in decent and adequate housing.

* * *

From: Mark Mericle, THE MINORITY REPORT, Box 252, Dayton, Ohio 45401, phone 513-222-7165 -

Several key members of THE MINORITY REPORT, the radical paper of Dayton, Ohio, will be permanently leaving town in the next few weeks. Unless they are replaced, the paper will die. We

would like to have two or more people come in and keep us going

After one year of operation, the MR has proven the viability and necessity of an underground paper in the Dayton-area. Dayton is a typical, medium-sized (population about 300,000) Mid-western city. It is the home of National Cash Register Company (NCR) and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, which employs some 26,000 civilians in addition to its military personnel. There are ten college campuses within a 40-mile radius of the city, including Antioch College, University of Dayton, three state universities and a community junior college.

The MR currently publishes approximately once a month with a circulation of 5000, including 350 paid subscriptions. It is now at 20 pages selling for 25¢. Our editorial policy has been more politically oriented than most of our brother and sister papers.

Though in debt about \$350 and plagued by internal disorganization, the paper is a going concern. Revenues have provided partial support for staff members in the past year. Revolutionary spirit and hard work are needed to turn the paper's juicy potential into an effective political weapon and a self-sufficient alternative institution.

We are looking for two or more able and experienced radicals imbued with the folly of grappling with America's heartland. We would love to lure them from the staffs of other papers, offering the opportunity to exercise full responsibility and to test the limits of all talents.

For more information, please call or write, as soon as possible. In the struggle . . .

From LNS: Tom Hayden spoke to us to object to the role in which he was cast in LNS coverage of the SDS-Weatherman War Council in Flint, Mich. (LNS #223). Hayden complained that he was used as a "club" against the Weathermen, without being able to explain himself more fully. He said: "I believe LNS has a strong political bias against SDS Weatherman which distorts its ability to fairly interpret what really happened in Flint. The ideas attributed to me come from an on-the-run conversation and are placed in a context which is not my own." Tom said he is preparing a more comprehensive statement of his own on Weatherman

* * *

From: The LNS Women's Caucus --

Dear Sisters on the Staffs of Radical Papers--

The LNS Women's Caucus is interested in communicating with other groups of women fighting male chauvinism in radical media organizations. If you have a women's caucus or group at your paper would you write to us and let us know what you've been doing? Does your group concentrate on personal experience, women's copy to your paper, struggling with male staff members? Have you had any success in breaking the typist-telephone answered envelope stuffer syndrome?

We'll be trying to improve the quality and increase the quantity of women's liberation copy and graphics in the LNS packet. Please point out to us material that warrants reprinting, and give

us your suggestions about the most effective forms and emphasis for propaganda about women.

It seems to us that we should try to deal collectively with the male chauvinist material that gets into radical papers. (The LNS women's caucus plans to scrutinize LNS copy and veto all such pernicious stuff.) As a preliminary step, we'd encourage women to send critiques in to the RMBB of male chauvinist articles and graphics in radical papers.

* * *

From: Ralph Schoenman and five other officers, THE AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, 156 Fifth Av., New York, N.Y. 10010, phone 212-989-0164--

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation of America is changing its name to The American Foundation for Social Justice. We are doing this to prevent our work in the United States from being undermined by public statements and acts made in London over the name of Bertrand Russell when it is no longer reasonable to do so. We received a letter from Lord Russell in February 1969, saying that he had retired from public activity because of the weight of years. We wish to protect the credibility of his past acts -- which were not only believable but admirable.

The American Foundation for Social Justice will continue to develop the work in the United States and will place at the disposal of Citizens Commissions of Inquiry evidence concerning the policy of massacre in Vietnam, much of which was developed by the International War Crimes Tribunal of which Ralph Schoenman was Secretary General.

* * *

From: Pfc. Max E. Bastin, HHT 7/17 AIRCAV, APO San Francisco 96262 --

Friend in quest for peace,

Will you please send me copies of your publications. I am presently serving in the United States Army, stationed in the Republic of Viet Nam (don't hold this against me). I am very much interested in your publication and request your adding of my humble self to your mailing list. Peace. [Note from LNS -- paper with policies of free subs for GIs-WACs, please take note.]

* * *

From: Jodey Bateman, JONES FAMILY's GRANDCHILDREN, Box 2239, Norman, Okla. --

Dear LNS,

Latest from the Norman, Oklahoma, underground.

The judge refused to throw the charge against the five of us Jones Family's Grandchildren staff members out of court Jan 13. Our next hearing is Feb. 2.

The law they are trying to get us on (Okla. Statute 1040.51) is the only obscenity law of its kind in the USA. There is no question of social or artistic context -- the question is simply, "Did you or didn't you distribute pictures of sexual intercourse?"

The law makes exceptions for movies with the seal of approval of the Motion Picture Academy of America, Inc., or movies that have been brought into this country from abroad through a U.S. Customs Office.

In other words, "I Am Curious (Yellow)" which was showing in Oklahoma City at the time we were arrested is legal and we aren't. We could each get

15 years in prison.

We are contending that this is a violation of equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the 14th Amendment.

We have probably had more student support than has been aroused by any previous issue at the Oklahoma University campus in the time I am familiar with it (since 1961).

We are still in need of money. We owe over \$7000 so far on legal costs. Send any contributions to [address above]

Solidarity with all underground papers in similar situations

From: Judy Wallerstein, 123 Livingston St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201 - phone 212-855-8844 at home, or 212-598-2941 at work --

A new women's magazine, UP FROM UNDER, will be appearing in a few months. The magazine is grounded in a lot of women's liberation thought but is geared primarily for women who are not political and have probably never heard of women's lib.

The magazine will be published 5 times a year and, of course, we desperately need funds, and help of all kinds (especially ideas about distribution to a larger-than-movement audience).

We hope that you could put a notice in LNS that the magazine exists and that subscriptions (\$2.50 yearly) are available from: UP FROM UNDER, 339 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 10012.

* * *
FROM: Le Point, 13 rue Pascal, Paris 5^e, France
phone 707.27.91 --

Camarades,

As you will see from the enclosed letter, the publication, diffusion and sale of "Le Point" in France has been forbidden by ministerial decree.

Following moves against other papers elsewhere -- POTERE OPERAIO in Italy, POLITISK REVY in Denmark -- this suggests coordination on an international scale to repress any attempts to coordinate revolutionary movements.

We have never considered Le Point as the unique and ultimate instrument (see editorial of No. 1) and hope to provide you with information in future through a different, more flexible formula.

Meanwhile, our interdiction, coming at a moment when the paper was literally on the presses, has left us with some financial difficulties, and we need any help you can raise to ensure our survival. When these problems are settled we will be sending you our documentation in a new form. Fraternal greetings.

From: Phil Arway, JOHN BROWN CAUCUS, Box 211, Urbana, Ohio 43078 --

Sisters and Brothers,

A group of former SDSers and independent radicals got together after the Washington actions and set about organizing the John Brown Caucus. We placed ads in various underground papers (The Guardian etc.) calling together former SDSers who are tired of the dogma and theories being propounded by the "legitimate heirs" of SDS. It was like "which God are you going to follow."

So we are attempting to form a new national radical youth group that is brought together over the issues of the day and not the theologies of the day. The issue that binds us solidly together is

the liberation of all people and the liberation of ourselves.

Since we are financially unable to afford to have national travellers we will be dependent basically on the underground papers and on regional conferences.

We are calling a regional conference in Ohio on the 20, 21, and 22 of February in Urbana, Ohio. The conference is open to all independent radicals with the idea of establishing a statewide organization in Ohio. Then we plan to follow through with regional conferences throughout the country. We plan to discuss a basis for unity among radicals and the need for that unity.

Any information you might have pertaining to the Caucus or ideas for organizing would be appreciated....

Any comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

Also -- if possible could you put us in touch with some of your contacts in Ohio [Ohioans, take note].

* * *
From: Tim Hopkins, ARMAGEDDON, 22 Spring St., Newmarket, NH 03857 --

Enclosed are the four copies of Armageddon that have been printed to date, with another expected next week. Upon returning to the University of New Hampshire this fall, we found our previously unaffiliated Student Political Union about to turn into a Worker-Student Alliance (WSA) chapter of SDS. Having a different analysis, a few of us felt a need to present some different ideas to the university community. There is a great female liberation group up here. They do most of the paper. Their politics are closely associated with the Boston group of which Abby Rockefeller and Roxanne Dunbar are members.

The white male movement at UNH is comprised of any number of factions, the most prominent being Progressive Labor (PL). However, a few of us are having moderate success pointing up the contradictions in the PL analysis, specifically in regards to black liberation, female liberation and the tactic of a campus worker-student alliance.

I had three major criticisms of LNS: little or no articles on female liberation, no articles on Palestine liberation and/or U.S. imperialism in the Middle East, LNS support of the Yippies. Female liberation is probably the fastest growing and most important part of the movement. Although New England Free Press is PL, they sell more Female Liberation literature than all others combined. It makes much money for them although most of them disagree with the analysis of the Boston group. LNS seems to be correcting this situation, the article by Marge Piercy was among the best I've ever read on any subject anywhere.

Being one of the few anti-Zionists in New Hampshire, I was delighted to receive the LNS issue of Dec. 24. However, much more is to be said about U.S. imperialism in the Middle East. If I manage to write something good, I'll send it along to you.

The rebirth of the YIP as an "umbrella organization" is not needed. The death of SDS as a national organization is no loss to the movement. SDS served its purpose well, it set the direction. What is needed on a national level is LNS. Information must be reported by an "independent" or-

ganization, not one that is aligned with a particular group, particularly one that is dominated by urban, white males. The Yippies have proved to be one of the more male chauvinist organizations despite the apparent new role of women in the organization that LNS reported a while ago.

We are a very poor (\$) group. We will try to keep up with our payments or send you what we can. We need LNS up here in the sticks. The movement needs LNS.

For the revolution and Armageddon

* * *

From: YOUTH INTERNATIONAL PARTY NEWS SERVICE, 1520 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104, phone 313-761-1709--

By the time you receive this, it will be only a day or two before Jan. 24, John Sinclair Day. On that day, the International Committee to Free John Sinclair and the Youth International Party has planned a series of rock 'n' roll benefits, smoke-in/teach-ins, petitions and legalize marijuana rallies across Woodstock Nation Communities and groups which have not planned such events for Jan. 24 are urged to consider planning them for a future time. For more information, subscribe to the Youth International Party News Service [address above]. Includes John Sinclair's prison letters, information from the Ann Arbor White Panther Tribe, catalogs of posters and buttons and literature and records, the UP Rock 'n' Roll Co., Rejuvenation News, and membership in the CONSP1RACY. Rates are \$10 for 6 months, \$15 for one year. Issues are twice per month.

* * *

From: Executive Committee, c/o the Los Angeles Free Press, 7813 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036 --

Press Release for Monday, Jan. 12, 1970:

The Los Angeles Free Press Workers Association, an independent union representing the staff of America's leading underground newspaper, Friday presented Art Kunkin, owner-publisher of the paper, with a proposed labor contract and asked to begin negotiation.

The Association was organized by the workers and recognized by the publisher in September, 1969. The proposed contract calls for job security, a minimum \$3 wage, and other benefits. In the almost six years that the Los Angeles Free Press has fought for the rights of the oppressed, Friday's contract proposal is the first such effort that the employees have made on their own behalf as an independent part of the American labor movement.

The Association will keep you informed of the progress of negotiations. You may write [see address above].

* * *

From: THE STAFF COLLECTIVE OF LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE --

LNS is currently in the most serious financial crisis we have faced in more than a year. One reason for the current problem is a delay in several important fund-raising projects. We can move out of this crisis relatively quickly and easily, however, if the 20-30 regular LNS subscribers who have not paid their bills for some time would do so. Most LNS subscribers have contributed regularly to our burgeoning operating costs, we urge all papers who possibly can to send us a check now for current and back bills. Thank you.

THE END OF THE RADICAL MEDIA BULLETIN BOARD FOR TODAY

...more ..

TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE HEARING

THE PILL IS NOT SAFE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS) — After millions of women have been fed the Pill for almost a decade, the word has finally come down -- women have been tricked. The Pill is not safe. Healthy women have been used as guinea pigs while drug companies have reaped huge profits from a giant experiment in hormonal balance.

Doctors, testifying before the Monopoly Subcommittee of the Senate Select Committee on Small Business on Feb. 15, revealed that cancer, blood clots, hardening of the arteries, strokes, heart attacks, diabetes, infertility and possible genetic damage are among the side effects that have appeared in women using The Pill. Enough of a statistical correlation between pill-use and the incidence of various side effects has been shown to move doctors like Dr. Hugh J. Davis to ask that use of The Pill be restricted to those women for whom other birth control methods fail.

In documenting these complications, Dr. Davis, Director of the Contraceptive Clinic at Johns Hopkins University, said the synthetic chemicals used in birth control pills are twenty to forty times as potent as naturally occurring estrogenic hormones. "To think these contents are natural is comforting, but wholly false," he added.

British studies completed in April, 1968 and repeated here last year indicate that approximately thirty women die per million pill users each year from complications of blood clotting alone. This does not include illness of a non-lethal nature of about one in one thousand women who develop clots calling for hospitalization and perhaps subsequent debilitation.

A report prepared by the Food and Drug Administration in June of 1968 confirmed these findings. The FDA subsequently mailed a letter to all physicians in this country warning them of the side effects which drug companies minimized when they mentioned them at all. The FDA has maintained the Pill is "safe", despite the research documenting the high incidence of serious side effects. Yet it is unclear what they mean by "safe." If the Pill prevents unwanted pregnancy, then it may be

termed adequate, but it can be lethal to a healthy woman, and that is certainly not safe.

In a later report the FDA confirmed that synthetic estrogen found in oral contraceptives was shown to cause cancer, especially breast cancer, in at least five species of experimental animals. As Dr. Roy Hertz, a prominent cancer specialist, told the committee, "Synthetic estrogen is to breast cancer what fertilizer is to a weed crop." The FDA report explained that all physical and chemical agents that are cancer-producing in man are also carcinogenic in animals and frequently produce tumors in the same organs.

Dr. Davis stated that there's no reason to expect oral contraceptives will turn out to be the one exception to this finding. He said that cervical cancer may be caught [in its early stages] by an astute physician, but by the time a lump is noticeable in the breast, it has already been there several years and has probably spread to other areas of the body. Since it takes ten to twenty years for a cancer to appear after the first cellular changes, Dr. Davis believes that we are likely to be facing a drastically high incidence of breast cancer in women who were or are on The Pill in the middle 1970's at the earliest. Meanwhile The Pill is passed across the doctor's desk like "chewing gum" and forced on poor and third world women through domestic and foreign aid programs.

In his statement at the opening of the hearings, Senator Gaylord Nelson referred to a study printed in the October, 1969, issue of *The Lancet*, a prestigious British medical journal which documents research showing over 50 major complications resulting from pill usage. Among the less known side effects was the report that 78% of women on oral contraceptives suffered impaired glucose tolerance with 13% developing diabetes. Most of these complications appeared to be reversible after short term use but it is not known if this is true over a long period.

Despite the fact that millions of women are suffering severe debilitation and possible death from pill usage, participants at the hearing seemed to think this report minor as compared to reports of infertility and genetic mutation.

Dr. James Whitelaw of San Jose, Calif. reported that it is widely believed that following termination

of pill usage, women will be incredibly fertile. and therefore The Pill has long been advertised and used with women suffering from infertility and irregular menses. Contrary to this belief, Dr Whitelaw testified, research has shown The Pill to cause temporary to permanent infertility after regular usage.

The findings of chromosome damage following and during pill usage were received most dramatically. Dr. Marvin S. Legator, from the Food and Drug Administration reported on his and others' research showing that genetic damage was significantly greater in aborted fetuses of pill-users than in those of non pill-users and animals tested showed a vast assortment of mutagenic impairments. He said these experiments are still in their early stages, but already researchers have become alarmed at the widespread use of so untested and powerful a drug.

Women are clearly not being told of the known health hazards caused by oral contraceptives. Doctors receive little or no information from drug companies, the companies try to hush up what little research is now being done and substitute massive pro-pill advertising campaigns -- campaigns which imply that there is no viable alternative to The Pill. Few women know that Johns Hopkins University has just developed an IUD which is 99% effective against pregnancy and can be easily worn by 94% of women.

One witness at the hearing, Dr. Edmond Kassouf of Cranford, New Jersey, testified that drug concerns had consistently under-emphasized the known risks. He said that manufacturers' pamphlets still in circulation say nothing of the current data on the risk of blood clot problems or other potential hazards.

Further, Dr. Kassouf asserted that American doctors "could not be" well informed on birth control pills since the Journal of the American Medical Association denied publication to those papers which revealed information adverse to The Pill. He said a doctor would have to read unpublished papers, or reports in various British medical journals. He stated that most doctors have little time for such intensive study on a single problem.

and that therefore most of them relied heavily on the AMA journal

In trying to justify the use of The Pill, Dr. Robert W. Kishner of the Harvard Medical School (also in the employ of Searles, the largest manufacturer of oral contraceptives) said, "Almost without exception, the consequences of contraception are beneficial and contribute significantly to the health and well-being of the community." It is clear that the "community" he is speaking of is that of men, for if contraception weren't the only element at stake, more research would now be going on for better and safer methods. The best he could come up with to defend widespread pill usage was, "For every pill-induced death in Britain, there are at least 1500 cigarette-induced deaths; based on the total sales of the two products during 1967, one cigarette is three times as dangerous as one pill." Thank you, doctor!

Most medical researchers, doctors and law-makers are men. They are not doing research on male contraception although some scientists emphasize that there has already been developed but not "perfected" a pill for men. It seems clear that there are two standards of "perfection" -- one for men and one for women -- women are channeled so as to have little access to medical information, it is believed they will be happy knowing that they might merely develop nausea, some weight-gain and swelling of the breasts but that these will disappear after one or two months of pill usage.

As the real horrors of The Pill loom larger, women themselves will shriek out at the drug companies who reap huge profits, and the male-dominated medical world which is concerned with money and their own libido. Let us hope that it is not already too late to stop some massive experiment in which we are the expendable guinea pigs.

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Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm, tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen .

-- William Lloyd Garrison, 1831

January 21, 1970

more ..

RADICAL ARTISTS SHAKE UP MOMA

LIBERATION News Service

"And babies?"

"And babies."

A color poster with these words on it shows the massacred citizens of Songmy. The words come from a television interview with Paul Meadow, a GI who took part in the massacre.

NEW YORK (LNS) -- When the patrons of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) arrived on the first Saturday of 1970 for a leisurely afternoon appreciating culture, they found that the Songmy poster covered the display cases describing the museum's current exhibit. Members of the Art Workers Coalition, wearing the poster slung over their shoulders, greeted them with leaflets and offered free posters to one and all.

The AWC is a group of insurgent artists demanding an end to the control of Art by the wealthy patrons of the galleries and the rich corporation men on museum boards of trustees.

Originally, the museum agreed to co-sponsor the poster and help arrange for its distribution. A joint committee with delegates from the museum and the coalition designed the poster. Despite the open enthusiasm of the majority of the museum staff, the executive staff displayed increasing reluctance to act on the project.

Finally, William S. Paley, CBS chief and President of the board at MOMA informed the staff that the museum could not be associated with the poster. According to Paley, the staff could present the issue to a board of trustees' meeting to be held Jan. 8. However, Paley said that the board, whose members include David Rockefeller, would definitely reject the sponsorship of the poster.

On Jan. 8, the AWC returned to MOMA demanding that the museum exhibit the poster on its third floor next to the exhibit of Picasso's 'Guernica', a painting commemorating the destruction of a Spanish village by the Nazis during the Spanish Civil War. The trustees ignored the demonstrators and the demand.

AWC members handed out posters to big crowds around the lobby and in front of 'Guernica'. Most people accepted the posters and agreed to show them

to friends. The museum's Curator of Development (i.e. PR man) said that he supported the Coalition.

50,000 posters are now being distributed to individuals and posted in stores, subways and college bulletin boards.

Posters can be ordered from: Art Workers Coalition, Box 553, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10011.

-30-

[Note: See Graphics section for picture to go with this story.]

THE MITCHELL STRATEGY: ISOLATE THE ENEMY
AND ATTACK HIM

WASHINGTON (LNS) -- Tactfulness doesn't seem to run in the Mitchell family. Recently, the United States Attorney General had some choice words to say about the Ripon Society, a liberal young Republican organization, whose members generally look and act more like the Junior Chamber of Commerce than your local radical fringe.

The Society had accused Mitchell of letting political considerations determine the Justice Department's approach to law enforcement, and said that he should resign if he doesn't want to give up his role as Nixon's leading political advisor.

That night on CBS News, Mitchell answered, "As far as those little juvenile delinquents are concerned, I don't think I have any comment about them."

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J. EDGAR HOOVER LAYS IT ON THE LINE:

CALLS IN THE PTA TO FIGHT SDS GUERRILLAS

WASHINGTON (LNS) -- J. Edgar Hoover predicts a heavy upsurge of "extremism" in America's high schools this year, and he warns that college SDS members feel it is their job to subvert pristine minds by handing out leaflets, holding seminars, and assisting in the publication of underground high school newspapers.

His assessment of the threat SDS "guerrillas" pose appears in a recent issue of PTA Magazine, according to a report in the Washington Post. -30-



STOP
THE WAR!
I WANT
TO GET
OUT!

LEFT. Old War Comics new balloons Credit LNS

RIGHT. Members of the Artworkers Coalition demonstrate inside the , Museum of Modern Art in front of the Guernica exhibit. See story page 20

Credit Allen Barber, LNS



PHOTOS FROM THE VENCEREMOS BRIGADE

TOP. Dancing, yelling, and screaming at a sun beach party. The beach formerly belonged to Batista

BOTTOM. Study on the Beach

Both photos credit RED STAR PHOTO AGENCY, LNS



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE VENCEREMOS BRIGADE

TOP: The Cuban laundry service supplies goggles(to protect eyes) hats, shirts, pants, socks, and boots.

BOTTOM: British made buses take brigadeers on week-end trips to such places as schools, sugar mills, a cane conditioning plant, beaches, pools, and Havana's green belt.

CREDIT / RED STAR PHOTO AGENCY, LNS.



MORE PHOTOS FROM THE VENCEREMOS BRIGADE

LEFT: Member of the Bolivian guerrilla brigade, made up of tobacco workers. This brigade was the first in Havana province to cut one million arrobas of cane. They worked with the Venceremos brigade for one day.

RIGHT: Dennis, a member of the fifth sub-brigade of the Venceremos brigade.

CREDIT RED STAR PHOTO AGENCY/LNS



Map of Southeast Asia (concentrating on Laos) to accompany story on page 6.